



# FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Winter 2012

## A HIDDEN JEWEL

SEE PAGE 3



## Editor's notes



Christmas is now over and Forum would like to send all our readers our very best wishes for the New Year.

Let's hope it does not turn out quite as severe as the politicians and pundits keep telling us!

Our thanks go out to all who supported *Forum* over the last year with advertising, news and articles. If the magazine is a success it is, in the end, totally dependent on your support and contributions. Please continue to support us in the way you have.

And an apology - In our last edition, in the report on the Bicentenary of the Lodge of Virtue and Silence, I reported Angel Lodge in Colchester as No 71 instead of No 51. I wondered for a while why I kept getting funny looks from members of the Lodge of Unity in Lowestoft. My apologies to all those who noticed the mistake.

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## JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary

The Lodge Mentoring Co-ordinator has become an integral part of the way we maintain and enhance our membership. At Quarterly Communications in March, it will be on the agenda for Grand Lodge to approve both the Office of Mentor in Private Lodges as well as the design of a jewel. This Office will be optional, but I am sure most Suffolk Lodges will embrace the opportunity. The Lodge Mentor will rank immediately before Senior Deacon.

Provincial Grand Lodge will be held one week later this year on Friday 8th June. This has been caused by the Royal Hospital School moving half-term back one week to accommodate HM, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Brethren wishing to dine should return the enclosed form immediately as seats for dinner are always over-subscribed.

Pictured (*in the centre*) is Peter Peck who is retiring from his duties in the Provincial Office after over 20 years service. Bro Peter's commitment to the Province has been exemplary and he will be much missed. Trevor Tinley (*second right*) has become a much valued member of the Office Team.

Finally as this is my last "Jottings" may I take this opportunity of thanking you all, for your kind and loyal support during my term of Office as Provincial Grand Secretary for this wonderful Province of Suffolk.



## WBro Ian Yeldham APGM

Our new APGM, WBro Ian Yeldham, was appointed by the PGM at the Provincial Meeting last June. Since his appointment he has been very busy and thoroughly enjoying getting round all parts of the Province and meeting new and old Brethren alike.

Ian was born in June 1960 in, very appropriately, Little Yeldham in Essex. He was educated at Salters Hall in Sudbury followed by Felsted School in Essex. He then attended the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. He joined Stour Valley Lodge in 1985, became a Provincial Steward in 1993, DPGDC in 1998, PGDC in 2003, AGDC (Eng) in 2005 and Grand Steward in 2008. As APGM he follows his father, WBro John Yeldham who was APGM for Suffolk from 2000 to 2003.

# A HIDDEN JEWEL



Such was the expert opinion expressed by the team from the British Institute of Organ Studies on seeing and hearing the chamber organ residing in the Masonic Hall in Saxmundham which was hitherto unbeknownst to them. The organ was originally built for, and installed in, nearby Sibton Hall and the date 1830 can still be found within the organ together with the name of Joseph Greenwood – organ builder of Leeds.

It is recorded within the records of Abiff Lodge that in 1935 'a single manual mahogany cased pipe organ was purchased from the widow of Mr. W Hall, stonemason, for the sum of £22.00.'

In the 17th and 18th centuries the chamber organ in the 'big' house or mansion was perceived to be as much a piece of grand furniture gracing the ballroom, as it was a musical instrument. In modern parlance it was a 'must have' status symbol and neighbouring houses vied for the latest and best. It was much practiced privately and deserved its description as 'the music of friends'. However, the day of the chamber organ passed with the perfection of the grand piano from about 1850 onwards. Some chamber organs remained as a piece of furniture, some made their way into churches and chapels but, alas, many were broken up.

The Saxmundham instrument is in a remarkably serviceable condition requiring only tuning occasionally. It still boasts its polished mahogany case but to restore it to its original condition

including its 'front pipes' finished in gold leaf as in days of yore, would cost several thousand pounds. The Brethren and their guests, under the auspices of the Adair Chapter were privileged recently to hear the extent and capabilities of the organ superbly demonstrated by WBro David Adams who is a Past Grand Organist in the Craft and Chapter as well as Grand Organist in the Mark and Royal and Select Masters. The organ photographs were taken by Roger Phillip Searle of Framlingham Camera Club.



*From: WBro Richard Crane, MA LGSM FCMI, PGTreas*

*Richard is a member of Adair Lodge and guest organist at Abiff Lodge.*

## PROVINCIAL PRESENTATIONS



The photographs show the Provincial Grand Master presenting cheques for £4,000 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance and £15,000 to the Lin Berwick Trust on behalf of the Grand Charity. While we are all aware of the work of the Air Ambulance, that of the Trust may be less familiar.

The Trust was set up in 1989 by Lin Berwick, who is blind and suffers from cerebral palsy and is a wheel chair user, to provide holiday accommodation for those with similar disabilities. After ten years of fundraising and planning the Trust opened their first holiday home, Berwick Cottage, in East Harling in

Norfolk in 1997. Much acclaimed by users and national recognition bodies the Trust opened their second cottage, Denis Duncan House in Dirleton, East Lothian, in 2006. They are now raising money for a third cottage in Cornwall which this donation will help to get off the ground.



## PGM OPENS CHARITY EVENT



The PGM officially opened a "Day of Inspiration" for the charity Parkinson's UK held at the Apex Centre in Bury St Edmunds, which had been funded by a donation of £5,000 by the Grand Charity. Paula Carey Regional Manager of Parkinson's UK, said: "We are so grateful to the Freemasons for making this day possible"

Participants were able to take part in a range of different activities at the event: laughter, yoga, poetry, and singing, were just a few of the creative workshops available.

*The picture shows the PGM presenting a cheque for £5,000 to Paula Carey, Regional Manager of Parkinson's UK, together with Carol Stork, Regional Fundraising Manager and Peter Gosling Provincial Charity Steward.*



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# HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Once again Ipswich's Freemasons Hall was opened to the public on Saturday 10th September 2011 as Ipswich Freemasons contribution to Ipswich's Heritage Weekend. This provides a unique opportunity for members of the general public to visit and see at close quarters many of Ipswich's most important buildings which may otherwise be closed to them. Once again the event took place under the aegis of the Ipswich Society. The whole event was given a further fillip this year with the involvement of the Transport Museum which provided a shuttle service of historic buses during the day for the intending visitors. Our involvement in this scheme every year since 2008 has meant that we have managed to sweep away some of the mystique and misconception that has unfortunately surrounded our organisation.

WBro Arthur Tydeman provided an information sheet for distribution to the visitors and arranged a comprehensive exhibition in the robing room. This tried to convey something of the underlying principles that drive Freemasonry both nationally and locally. Particular emphasis was given to the extent to which local charities had benefited from the efforts of individual Ipswich lodges.

The George Scott Room, the Bar, the Temple. The Watson Room, the Archives and the entrance hall were all admired in turn by over 210 visitors who had

come to view what must be one of Ipswich's smaller architectural jewels. Without exception, our visitors were very taken with the quality of our building and the use to which it is put and expressed their pleasure at being invited to come and view it. It was surprising that many expressed concern over the apparently destructive and uncontrolled development at the rear of our premises and its possible effect on the Hall and its setting.

WBro Harry Watson, the Chairman of Masonic Hall Ipswich Ltd, who are responsible for the maintenance and administration of Freemasons Hall, said: "The Open Day has once again proved to be an enormous success. We had a constant stream of visitors and they were really appreciative. They all went away with a much better idea of what Freemasonry is and the tremendous amount of work that we do supporting diverse charitable causes."

He went on to say: "I would like to thank all of the brethren: WBros Arthur Tydeman (who organised the event and set up the exhibition), Forbes Powrie, Peter Matthews, Maurice Thick, Paul Taylor, Paul Ketteringham, John Jarman (for his work with the archives), Ramon Green, and Bro Dave Mullett, who so willingly gave their time to show visitors around, answer questions and provide explanations and who made the day such an outstanding success."



UPDATE TO

## Treetop Appeal

**from WBro Peter Gosling,  
Provincial Grand Charity  
Steward.**

The response by the Freemasons of Suffolk to the Provincial Grand Master's EACH Treehouse Appeal has been exceptional, commencing in January 2010 with the expectation of achieving £100,000 by the end of December 2011.

This amount was in fact donated by the Lodges within the first fourteen months, which enabled the PGM to make an initial donation to the Children's Hospice in Ipswich of £100,000 in March of 2011.

Further donations continued and in June this year at the Provincial Meeting in Holbrook Barry Ross, the Provincial Grand Master presented an additional cheque for £40,000 to Graham Butland, the Chief Executive of EACH, who expressed his personal appreciation in respect of the wonderful contribution made by the Freemasons of Suffolk to the EACH Appeal.

The Treehouse Appeal will continue until the end of December 2011, with further donations still being made by some of the Lodges.

This will enable a final donation to be made in the New Year by the PGM. The total amount of donations given by the Suffolk Freemasons will be confirmed in a later issue of Forum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Lodges and Brethren of Suffolk who have made this appeal such an outstanding success, and I am certain that all those dedicated personnel at the Hospice will be very grateful indeed, but none more so than those little children who are in need of the services and facilities that your donations have contributed to.

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# Letters... Letters... Letters... Letters...

Dear Sir,

## STEM Ambassadors to Suffolk Schools

I was wondering if there might be a number of employed, retired or semi-retired Masons in Suffolk who would be interested in offering their skills and experience to help young people with an insight to the 'world of work' and help to inspire them to achieve the necessary qualifications to further their education or careers.

People from a huge range of backgrounds volunteer their time to help young people see the link between Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and their real world applications. Ambassadors can contribute to regular work experience activities, mentoring, science & engineering clubs, career days and special extra-curricular projects.

I have been a STEM Ambassador for three years and feel I contribute in a small way making a difference to young people who nowadays face a very difficult environment in making that step into employment or further education. Even if prospective volunteers do not fall directly into the STEM categories there are also plenty of opportunities to get involved as an Ambassador with business or commercial skills and/or mentoring skills.

Information can be gained via the internet at [www.stemnet.org.uk](http://www.stemnet.org.uk), or e-mail me at [chris@cnorman1.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:chris@cnorman1.orangehome.co.uk) I would be only too pleased to give prospective volunteers any information.

*Yours S&F, WBro Chris Norman*

Dear Sir,

My wife and I are taking part in a new free healthy lifestyle service for Suffolk and it seems to be doing some good even though we have only been on it for six weeks. Known as the "Fit Fans" programme, it is sponsored by NHS Suffolk and delivered by Ipswich Town Football Club by a facilitator who did a similar thing in Hull five years ago. The results there were outstanding and the good work he started continues to this day.

We go one night a week for a couple of

hours made up partly by lectures about how to create and maintain a better lifestyle and partly by exercise routines which are not strenuous! It's not about weight loss as much as more about fat stripping. It's more about reducing the percentage of fat in the body rather than body mass indices. In between and on our own programme, we walk and exercise for at least 30 minutes a day, we eat healthily cutting out sugar and saturated fats and we take plenty of fibre. We do not experience hunger pains or even thoughts.

The Fit Fans programme started as a 12 week course but it is now being converted into a continuous programme based on a "Club" so participants can join at any time without waiting for the start of term. This means we do not finish but we can now go when we want for further support to what is a lifetime programme of fitness and improved health. We go to Felixstowe but the delivery is also happening in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Haverhill as well as other locations which are about to come on stream. There are mixed classes, ladies only and men only.

I thought that several of the members of my own Lodge might be interested in participating and I have asked for leaflets to be made available to me for onward distribution to them. I wondered if it might also be of interest to other Suffolk Masons?

Details can be found on the [www.livewellsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.livewellsuffolk.org.uk) website and I would be happy to try and answer any questions.

*Yours S&F, Paul Ruffles, Almoner, Felix Lodge  
paul.ruffles4@btinternet.com,  
0778 901 8871*

Dear Sir,

Brotherly love the first of the three Great Principals on which freemasonry is founded is at the core of the Order of the Secret Monitor or the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan. The Order is not secret though there are brethren who have said to me that they thought, because of the name, that a

candidate had to be invited to join. Another candidate told me on being admitted that he had wanted to join for many years but thought that the Order was only open to very senior Freemasons. In fact it is open to any Master Mason in good standing who is a member of a recognised Constitution. The 'Monitor' refers to the care that is taken to keep in touch with all members to ensure that they are not ill or in distressed circumstances.

The Order is based on one of the greatest stories of friendship - that between David, the Father of Solomon, and Jonathan, the son of Saul the first king of Israel. Many candidates have remarked that, as the degrees proceed, this story, which they remember from the Bible, comes alive. Brethren meet, usually three times a year, in Conclaves which are presided over by a Supreme Ruler. There is no Almoner but there are four Visiting Deacons whose duty is to keep in touch with the members and to report to the Conclave if any Brother is in need of assistance of any kind. Right Worthy Brother John Elmore, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Suffolk, has often commented that the other Orders in Freemasonry, to which we all belong, emphasise the responsibility the brethren have to support charitable giving, but in the Order of the Secret Monitor emphasis is given to the commitment of time and care to brethren and their dependents in need or distress.

In many countries around the world the Order is second only to the Craft in the number of members it attracts and, because of its emphasis on friendship and practical care, the Order assumes a very special place in the affections of its members.

If you are a Master Mason and would like further details of the Order together with a list of contacts for the Conclaves within the Province of Suffolk please email me at [jamesfry702@aol.com](mailto:jamesfry702@aol.com)

*Yours S&F, James Fry, Provincial  
Grand Registrar (Suffolk),  
Order of the Secret Monitor*



## THREE GENERATIONS AS ONE

WBro Richard Vickerstaff, the WM of Perfect Amity Lodge was, earlier this year, very pleased to initiate his son, also a Richard Vickerstaff (21) into the Lodge.

There are now three Richard Vickerstaffs in Perfect Amity Lodge: the WM, his son and also his father, another Richard Vickerstaff (81), who initiated the current WM in 2002.

Also present was the Initiate's other grandfather, Bro Maurice Bernard (Spike), who is a member of the Royal Engineers Chatham Lodge 4465.

The photograph shows in the back row (l to R) Bro Maurice Bernard, WBro Richard Vickerstaff Jnr (WM) and WBro Richard Vickerstaff Snr while the Initiate is seated.

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## WELFARE UPDATE

A meeting will be held at Stowmarket Masonic Centre between 9.00 and 10.30 am on 11th March 2012 to update Suffolk Freemasons and their partners on welfare developments in dementia from Debra Keeling, Deputy Director of Care at the RMBI and from Natasha Treeweek, Head of Freemasonry Cares on the first six months of the scheme in Suffolk.

Space will be limited so an early booking, at the latest by 8th March, is advised through WBro Mac Speake, Provincial Almoner. He can be contacted by email on [macspeake@btinternet.com](mailto:macspeake@btinternet.com), by telephone on 01449 740635 or by post at Dockyard, Kettlebaston, Ipswich IP7 7QA.

In brief, Freemasonry Cares is an initiative to make sure that Freemasons and their dependents who need support are able to get it. This is a joint initiative involving all four Masonic charities and is a gateway to the help that they can provide. It aims to increase awareness of that help and to make it easier to access by a National Freephone (0800 0356090) and a new website. This initiative provides a unique opportunity to make sure that those who have not been well-versed in our Masonic Charities, especially wives, partners and widows of masons are brought up to date on the Masonic help available to them.

*Freemasonry Cares*

## WATTISHAM VISIT

On 21st August, the Brethren of Felix United Service Lodge, together with members of the Lodge of Perfect Friendship and accompanied by their wives and friends were given a tour of Wattisham Flying Station under the guidance of Bro Maj Barry Humphreys, AAC, a member of Bosmere Lodge.

After a curry lunch in the Officers' Mess, the party were given a tour of the Museum, a presentation on the capabilities of the Apache attack helicopter followed by a guided tour of the Apache up close and personal. Those who wished were able to sit in the aircraft and have photographs taken. A collection was made on the day which resulted in



the presentation on 6th September.

All members of both Lodges would like to thank Maj Humphreys for a great day out and wish him well for the future.

The photograph shows WBro Rodger Eade and his wife Janet, of Felix United Service Lodge presenting a cheque for the Afghan Appeal Fund for £613.25 to Colonel Neale Moss, OBE, Commander Aviation at Wattisham. Also shown is WBro Brian Locksmith co-organiser of the visit.

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## BOB'S HAT TRICK

WBro Bob Wade, a retired Suffolk Police Superintendent, joined Ipswich Rotary Club in 2002 and was initiated into The Rotary Lodge of Suffolk in the same year. He was exalted into Royal Alexandra Chapter in 2004. When not enjoying Rotary or Freemasonry, Bob is a keen motorcyclist, owning a Harley Davidson motorcycle

and enjoys golf, photography and the occasional glass of beer! Those who have visited his Lodge know that he also enjoys singing at the Festive Board. Bob's Rotary and Masonic careers have been running in parallel since 2002. In 2011 those careers coincided when he became President of The Rotary Club of Ipswich, Worshipful Master of The Rotary Lodge of Suffolk and First Principal of Royal Alexandra Chapter. Bob says that he is having a very busy but absolutely fantastic year.



## PRESENTATION to LIONEL BELL

A special presentation of an inscribed silver salver to WBro Lionel Bell marked a life of great service to Sudbury masonry. Lionel followed his father into Stour Valley Lodge and was initiated in 1943 as war raged. He became WM in 1951. This presentation marked 68 years in masonry and 60 years since reaching the Chair. At that time Freemasonry was thriving and Lionel was to chair a joint meeting of Stour Valley and Priory to discuss founding a much needed third Lodge. None doubted the wisdom of such a step but with extreme masonic caution the new Lodge, Babergh, was not consecrated until some 14 years later in May 1966. In order to get things off the ground Lionel agreed to serve as its founding Junior Warden but insisting that rather than progress, the Chair would later pass to a junior Brother. Thus, as always, Lionel put service to masonry before self. Like his friends and contemporaries Cliff Watson and Cyril Hurr, Lionel was a master of the ritual. He had little choice for at Babergh's foundation it was agreed that all candidates had to learn the presentation of the Lodge Banner and both the First and Second Degree Tracing Boards in their entirety before they became Wardens!

As father of the Hall much has been said of Lionel's longevity but to put his life into



context our Hall historian, Peter Thorogood relates the following tale. Peter was researching the life of a well loved Brother, Edward Fitzgerald, who had served as Priory's Master in 1946. He commented to Lionel that when Fitzgerald served as Mayor of the Borough in 1928 he had conferred the Freedom of the Town on the American Ambassador, General Dawes. To his amazement Lionel complained: "Yes, I remember it well. As a member of the Grammar schools Army Cadet Force I had to march in the parade wearing an old First World War uniform and it was bloody hot I can tell you!"

As living history Lionel is our last link with the founders of Stour Valley and the building of this Temple. But it is not only as a link to the past that Lionel is respected. As a Mason his time and life has been exemplary and a great example to those that came after. Master of Stour Valley in 1951, following his father who was Master in 1935, he is the last surviving founder of Babergh, and in 1959 attained the Chair of Martyn Chapter, again following the example of his father who served in that Office in 1942.

## FELIX QUIZ NIGHT



The Almoner of Felix Lodge, W Bro 'Ruffy' Ruffles, decided to hold a quiz night in order to raise much needed funds. St John's Hall in Felixstowe was booked and the event promoted to attract non-masons and ladies in order to open up and spread the word about the Masonic movement in Felixstowe.

On 22nd October some 60 contestants turned up, split into 10 teams with interesting names like 'The Bloomers', the 'Braemar Brains Trust', the 'Universally Challenged' and one, made up of local young people, called 'We thought it was a disco'. A lively and interesting evening was on the cards.

The Quiz Master was Dennis Chaplin. Scores were checked regularly and a close contest was seen to be developing so that, when a ploughman's supper was taken at half-time, there was very little between the teams. The interval provided the opportunity to hold a raffle and to auction a case of twelve bottles of wine donated by Mr & Mrs Grimwood, Mr Grimwood at the time being listed to be initiated into Felix Lodge at their December meeting.

After the interval the "We Four" team opened up a lead closely followed by two others. In the end, the "We Four" won with the "Victoria" team close runners-up. Each of those two teams members were rewarded with suitable prizes presented by Mrs Noreen Ruffles.

Both Masons and non-Masons had made some very generous donations which, with the sale of tickets, the proceeds of the auction and the raffle gave a good sum from which the cost of food, the prizes and the hire of the Hall were deducted leaving a surplus for the evening of £683.06 which exceeded the £500 target for the evening.

The Almoner warmly thanked everyone for coming and for their raffle prizes, the Quiz Master for performing so well and for waiving his expenses, his wife for giving out the prizes, the caterers for providing the food and WBro Geoff Harvey for acting as barman. The participants reported that they had had a very enjoyable evening and requested another quiz be arranged for Spring 2012 for which plans are now afoot.

## SUFFOLK MASONS HELP ST ELIZABETH HOSPICE



The Province has donated just over £3,500 to the Hospice from Grand Charity and is part of a pot of £11,846 donated to five Hospices in Suffolk in December.

St Elizabeth Hospice relies on donations and fundraising to provide its services free of charge to patients and support

for their families and carers. The PGM said: "Supporting hospice services remains very important to Freemasons in Suffolk. The care they provide is exceptional but continuous financial support is necessary to ensure such a dedicated service."

Mrs Petit, the Hospice Chief Executive, said: "We are extremely grateful to have received this substantial donation and would like to thank all the Freemasons and their families for their support."

Since 1984 Freemasons have donated £9.3m to hospices nationwide.

The picture shows the cheque being presented to Jane Petit by the PGM, Barry Ross, and Peter Gosling, Provincial Charity Steward.

# A PERSPECTIVE ON MENTORING

From David Dunhill of Priory Lodge



Due to family and work commitments I had to take a decision not to progress within Priory Lodge and I stepped out of my role of Junior Deacon in 2009. I still wanted to play an active part in the lodge and towards the end of 2009 I was approached by my proposer who asked if I was interested in becoming one of the first mentor coordinators. I would like to share some of my thoughts regarding mentoring from the perspective of a Brother who has not been a Master of a lodge.

After attending mentoring workshops it became apparent that mentoring requires a considerable amount of common sense and people skills with a touch of diplomacy! After hearing the statistics presented by Keith Huxley, Provincial Mentor, the mentoring scheme was desperately needed to stem the flow of Brethren leaving Masonry or at the very least to get an understanding as to why. I felt it my duty to ensure that I do everything in my power to ensure that our lodge would not form part of the statistics.

Mentoring is thought by some as the job all Brethren should do.

This is quite right and more so for the proposer and seconder of a Brother. However, there is a misconception that the Mentoring Coordinator is only there to follow the progress of our new made Brothers – incorrect. What about the Worshipful Brother who has just completed his year as Master of the lodge or the IPM, what next for them? Some brethren consider the Chair of King Solomon as the ultimate achievement and when completed, been there, done that, now what? These brethren are equally at risk of leaving the craft.

We must remember why we all joined masonry in the first place, all for different reasons but as a Mentor it is imperative to ascertain what interest and goals a proposed candidate has. To this end, I liaise with the Lodge Secretary and attend the initial interview of the proposed candidate.

From this interview I try to determine what the candidate expects from Masonry, his likes, hobbies etc. He then has a friendly face in addition to his proposer and seconder at his initiation and I take the time to discuss what is going to happen – but without giving too much away!

Once an Entered Apprentice he will no doubt have to leave the temple at future meetings, I was horrified to hear of some other lodges who ask the entered apprentices to leave without being accompanied. Luckily, Priory Lodge have always had a policy to send another Brother who is normally their proposer, seconder or if they are not available the mentor. I utilise this time to answer any questions our Entered Apprentice has. In addition now they have been in the lodge for a few meetings, I discuss further if they have any plans to proceed to the Chair. This I believe to be one of the most important conversations a mentor should have with any Entered Apprentice. To explain; whilst it is important to encourage new Brothers to be an active part of any lodge, timing is everything, we must remember that Masonry is meant to be challenging and, above all, fun. It is a social occasion and one that you will stop if you do not enjoy. To this end, I find it frustrating that some brethren are pushed, against their will, to proceed along a path that they have no intention of completing or simply do not have the time to dedicate to the craft. Why, oh why, would you want to push a Brother into a position that they feel uncomfortable with and ultimately leave? So to nurture a Brother, understand his needs, his drive and encourage his passion towards Masonry is key, but above all listening to what he wants.

In my experience, brethren fall into one of three categories: those who want to progress, those who don't, and those unsure. In my opinion for brethren who wish to progress a clear understanding of what is expected of them should be advised from

the beginning. For brethren who do not want to progress, that is absolutely fine, no need to push them as their circumstances might not allow time for Lodge of Instruction or the dedication and time needed to proceed, BUT, push them and they might resign from the lodge. Keep them as an active part of the lodge and they feel respected, needed and above all part of Masonry, plus, their circumstances will most probably change and at that time they will be keen to move forward as a respected member. Finally, in the case of unsure Brethren, there is no correct solution only to talk to them continually giving all sides and respecting their decision. I strongly believe that any Brother looking to progress has a full understanding, from the beginning, of what is required of them before committing themselves and, being armed with that information, no surprises will get in the way of their progression to the chair.

We must not forget the Festive Board. Working with the Dining Secretary we must give careful consideration to the placement of our new Brother until they establish new friendships. Frequently glancing around the room to ensure all the junior brethren are engaged in conversation is a simple but effective way to ensure all brethren are enjoying the festive board.

To conclude, I am looking forward to the ideas, procedures and recognition mentoring is bringing to our lodges. Mentoring, in my eyes, is looking, listening and trying to accommodate a Brother's need, addressing their concerns and directing them when required, being impartial with differences of opinion and above all make each Brother enjoy their Masonry. With assistance of other officers, proposers and seconders I hope that this new initiative will make our lodge a stronger place and I look forward to the future.

## HALF-CENTURY FOR BOB DAVEY

At the Christmas Festive Board of the Lodge of Virtue & Silence, WBro Bob Davey was presented with his 50-year Certificate by the Group Representative, WBro Traver Scarff, to the acclamation of the members present and their guests. Bob, who is now the longest serving member of the Lodge, was initiated into

Virtue & Silence in December 1961, attained the chair in 1971, went on to become Provincial Treasurer in 1979 and was appointed PPJGW in 2008. In recent years he has been a very active Auditor for the Lodge and previous Treasurers have said they were most grateful for his advice and guidance.



## DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS AT ROYAL YORK CHAPTER



On 23rd November Royal York Chapter was honoured by the presence of Grand Superintendent, David Boswell, together with the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals, Michael Richards and Bill Hagger. Also present were the Provincial Scribe E, Nick Berry, the two Deputy Director of Ceremonies and several other acting Provincial Officers.

The Chapter was opened by the MEZ, Rod Hellawell, and the conduct of the Chapter offered to, and accepted by, the Grand Superintendent assisted by the Provincial Second and Third Principal's who opened a meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter. EComp Alistair Anderson was then presented and, following a brief history of his formative years, he was congratulated and presented with a framed certificate and a cut glass goblet to mark his 50 years in the Royal Arch. This was greeted with warm applause.

The Grand Superintendent, however, had one further task to perform and called for Comp Ian Gleed, Scribe E of the Chapter to be presented to him. To the surprise of the majority of those present, including Comp Ian, who had attended despite a nasty chest infection, the Grand Superintendent then promoted Comp Ian to the rank of Provincial Grand Steward in recognition of his services to Chapter and Freemasonry. Warm applause left a very happy, but rather overwhelmed Companion who then bade his leave to retire home to his sick bed and a strong night cap.

The picture shows, rear row left to right Bill Hagger, Michael Richards, Rod Hellawell (MEZ) and Nick Berry. In the front row are David Boswell and Alistair Anderson receiving his certificate.

## GRAND SUPERINTENDENT'S RECEPTION



On 11th September David Boswell, the Provincial Grand Superintendent, and his wife Jenny were pleased to host a reception for invited Chapter representatives at St John's Masonic Hall



in Felixstowe. The event, organised by the Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter, was a great success and a fine turnout of Chapter members and their wives and partners ensued. This informal occasion to meet was much appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended.

## PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER CAROL SERVICE



A good congregation of Suffolk masons, their families and friends attended the carol service at St Mary's Church in Woodbridge on 11th December. The service, presided over by WBro the Revd Canon Kevan McCormack, included many favourite carols and familiar readings. The singing was strengthened by members of the parish and Provincial choirs with the Provincial Organist, WBro Graham Colthorpe, on the organ and the Provincial Grand Master, Grand Superintendent and other prominent Suffolk masons did the readings. Afterwards, the congregation moved to the Masonic Hall for refreshments and an excellent light buffet.

## NEW ATHELSTAN PGM

On 17th September, at the Masonic Hall, King's Lynn, in conjunction with the Installation Meeting of Court of Herbert de Losinga No. 31, a Provincial Grand Court was opened by the Grand Master of the Order, MWBro Michael Roalfe GCSM, for the purpose of installing RWBro Francis Barber KCSM, Senior Grand Warden, as the new Provincial Grand Master of the Province of East Anglia, RWBro Roy Foster GCSM, having recently retired from that position. Once installed, RWBro Barber appointed and invested as his Deputy, VWBro Dr Christopher Ansell KCSM, together with other Provincial Officers.

*For further information about the Order visit [www.athelstan.org.uk](http://www.athelstan.org.uk)*

RWBro Barber, left, receiving his Patent from the Grand Master, MWBro Michael Roalfe.



# New Banner for Suffolk's Youngest Lodge



Countryside Lodge of Suffolk, consecrated in 2007, had its new banner dedicated in Sudbury in November in a short but moving ceremony in the presence of the members and their ladies.

Following a short Lodge Meeting attended by the PGM and other past and present Provincial Rulers, together with most of the Provincial Executive, the ladies were invited into the Lodge and welcomed by the WM, David Hicks. He then invited the Provincial Grand Chaplain to perform the ceremony and, following a short oration, George Pipe, dedicated and blessed the new Banner. A very happy and enjoyable White Table followed the meeting.

Two years in the making, the banner was designed by Alex Workman and Jaime Gwatkin, and is based on a Gainsborough painting. It depicts a pastoral scene dominated by two Suffolk Punch horses and framed by the County boundary. "We wanted to have something that

represented Suffolk Countryside," commented Alex. "We also wanted to remember our Sponsoring Lodge, Priory, and the County Church history. We were also conscious that we had only one opportunity to get the banner right."

"As a travelling Lodge, the banner is one of the only constants in a changing location. It is important that the members feel brought together by the banner," said Jaime.

The banner was made by Newton Flags, a small Lincolnshire family firm who gave the team complete control over the production. Alex added: "It was difficult to move from the design to what was technically possible and we're delighted with how close Newtons were able to get."

The result has been met with universal praise. The PGM commented: "Suffolk has an outstanding collection of Lodge Banners and this one is easily the equal of any of them. I look forward to seeing

it displayed in future years at the Annual Holbrook meeting."

*A footnote on Banners by George Pipe, Provincial Grand Chaplain*

'Finis Coronat Opus' as they might have said in the Julius Caesar Lodge No 1 in Rome.

'The End Crowns The Work'.

Every piece of furnishing in our temples is important, from the ashlar to the working tools.

The Banner gives us identity, something to look up to, to range under. With its Masonic symbols and depiction of our Lodge and its number in the Grand Lodge registry, it brings us together as a brotherhood and a family. We display it to remind us who we are and what we are about.

A recent beautiful example is Countryside's banner which I had the privilege of dedicating in November at Sudbury. May it stand four square to the Great Architect and for us for many years to come.

## CAROLS AT CORNWALLIS COURT

For several years since it was created the Suffolk Provincial Choir has performed at the Provincial meeting at Holbrook and now 'To be a Farmer's Boy' has become its well loved signature tune. As its fame and reputation spread, though not quite as far as the then known world, the Choir members were invited to sing at various other events around the Province until, one day, an idea was conceived to go to Cornwallis Court at Christmas time to spread a little Christmas cheer. The suggestion received the approbation of the Provincial Organist WBro Graham



Colthorpe and was immediately and strongly supported by many Choir members so plans were laid and then coordinated by WBro 'Ruffy' Ruffles.

However, there was not too much agricultural activity on a fine, cold and dry morning early in December when twelve members of the Choir arrived at Cornwallis Court in Bury St Edmunds armed with their carol sheets to be warmly greeted and welcomed by the Events Manager Sue Gosling who then introduced the members to the recently appointed Manager Lynda Whittle.

The Residents were looking forward to their regular monthly coffee morning, always held on the first Saturday of each month, and were gathering in the main reception room where a grand piano awaited the arrival of the Provincial Organist.

"Choir member and Suffolk Provincial Grand Charity Steward Peter Gosling

introduced us all to the residents and off we went with the rendering of several carols and other festive songs which entertained the residents for a little over an hour. Several of them joined us in the singing and, afterwards, Sue Gosling thanked us and then, together with the residents, she produced a surprise musical thank you for us which was received with acclamation." said 'Ruffy'.

After the Choir members were refreshed with soft drinks and cake, the raffle was taken and the Amenity Fund was boosted by the Choir members who had purchased a goodly number of tickets.

Over a week later a follow-up call to Lynda confirmed that the residents were delighted to have seen and heard the Choir, they were very happy to have been able to join in with the singing and they were still talking about the visit which they hope the Choir will repeat some time in the future.